

Badger Lodge News



Newsletter for United Lodge 66, Machinists Union, AFL-CIO
Chartered: November 30, 1895

Vol. 12 No 1

www.unitedlodge66.org & www.youtube.com/badgerlodge

January 2009

United Lodge 66 Business Meeting

January 9, 2009

7:00 PM

2609 W. Oklahoma Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53215
414-671-3800

*All Lodge Members are
Encouraged to attend.*

- **DAYTIME OFFICE HOURS** are **Tuesday thru Friday, 8AM to 4:30PM.** Business can be done at the Business or
- **CHECK** the answering machine for hours, 414-671-3800.
- The deadline for articles to February edition of the "Badger Lodge News", is January 17.
- **Education Evening** is **January 15, 2009** at 7:00PM, and the topic is Your 2008 Taxes by Joanne Reuss.

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President's Direct Line

Members can leave messages on my direct line at United Lodge 66. **My phone number is 414-671-6980.** I will try to be timely in answering.

Patricia Elizondo

**UNION OFFICE IS CLOSED:
on all Mondays.**

Why We Need *the Employee Free Choice Act*

from David Newby, President Wisconsin AFL-CIO

Thanks in large part to the efforts of Union volunteers around the country and in Wisconsin working families won a strong victory on November 4, 2008, sending Barack Obama to the White House and electing a stronger pro-worker majority of Senators and Representatives.

However, winning an election isn't the end of the fight. It's just the beginning.

Now, our elected leaders need to tackle the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression. They have to keep their promises to the people who voted for them and we have to give them the support they need to make the tough choices. We need an economic recovery package that will turn around this broken economy for working families with good jobs, green jobs, re-regulation of our financial system and health care that works for all of us.

But no matter what else we do, it won't result in real prosperity unless we restore workers' freedom to form Unions so they can bargain for a better life with better wages and benefits and a voice on the job. That's what this proposed legislation, the **Employee Free Choice Act**, will do. The **Employee Free Choice Act** will:

- Put real teeth in the laws that are supposed to bar companies from intimidating, harassing, even firing, workers who want to form Unions.
- Allow workers to form their Union when a majority signs cards indicating that's what they want.
- Require arbitration to end corporate foot dragging when workers try to get a first contract.



The **Employee Free Choice Act** will level the playing field that today leaves all the power in the hands of corporations, not workers.

But Big Business and the front groups set up by corporations are preparing an all out \$200 million propaganda and lobbying war to block it.

Unions have made passage of the **Employee Free Choice Act** a top priority for next year because it is the key to good wages, benefits, a voice in the workplace and the amplified political voice Unions bring workers. In 2007, the U.S. House passed the measure and it had a majority support in the Senate, but a minority killed it with a filibuster, emboldened by President George w. Bush's promise to veto the legislation. Now we have elected a new Congress that has promised to stand beside us in the fight and a President who has promised to sign the **Employee Free Choice Act**.

Here are the facts on why we need the **Employee Free Choice Act**:

Working families are struggling. For too long, workers haven't had the power to get their fair share of the value they create. Workers are

(continued on page 4)

"The Power of OUR Union is Directly Related to Y O U R Level of Activism in OUR Union."

Union Leadership Education

United Lodge 66 wants the best educated leaders in each shop and to do that we partner with our William W. Winpisinger Education and Technology Center. This Lodge has been a leader by sending members to this training. All it takes is those who want to move forward just a bit more. There is no cost to any member. Between the Lodge paying a members lost time and the International providing the school and the air fare all you give up is one week away from home and away from work.

The 2009 class schedule is available online at: <http://www.winpisinger.com/courselist/>

If you do not have internet access you need to attend a Lodge meeting and let us know.



WWW Center, Placid Harbor, dorms and classrooms

Essay Contest *by*

Wisconsin Labor History Society

This High School Essay Contest is for 2008-2009 school year Wisconsin High School students in grades 9-12. The cash prizes are awarded in May 2009 (1st is \$500; 2nd is \$300; 3rd is \$200; and up to 5 \$100 Honorable Mention.

Rules: (portion) Is about 750 words in length on the significance of the labor movement in their lives. Essay is judged on students understanding, evidence of original research, writing style and significance.

Completed essays to Prof. Kaye, Center for History and Social Change, University of Wisconsin - Green Bay, Green Bay, WI 54311. DEADLINE post-mark is February 13, 2009. For full details go to: <http://wisconsinlaborhistory.org>.

Or your Union Office can send you the details but remember the deadline.

Machinists Union 2009 Scholarship Competition

This scholarship competition is open each year to members of the IAM and their children throughout the United States and Canada. The IAM Scholarship Fund was established in 1960.

Scholarships make possible the attainment of a Bachelor's degree or a two year vocational/technical certification are determined in competition among eligible applicants that is judged by a special Selection Committee.

The deadline is February 27, 2009.

Your Lodge has more information which will be provided in later months or ask us to send it to you right now.

Milwaukee's Labor History

Visit this website to learn about Milwaukee's Labor History at www.milwaukeehistory.org

School for Workers Classes *for all members*

- Employment Law, January 27 to February 24, 2009
- Steward Training, March 4 to April 1, 2009

Ask us for the complete information.

Activities for You and Family

- **Education Evening**, Thursday, January 15, 2009 at 7:00PM. The topic is Your 2008 Income Taxes. This is open to all. Bring your family and neighbors.
- **Employment Law class** is available to all members, see page 5.
- **Steward Training class** is available to all members, see page 5.



Pondering Pride

As I write this, we are starting a new end. It's a good time to take stock of the year past, and for me, autumn stands out as a time of affirmation and pride in the things we all work for.

September took me to Florida for the 37th IAM Grand Lodge Convention. We celebrated the 120 year tradition of Democracy in action. In conjunction with the IAM Law Committee, we worked on proposed amendments to the IAM Constitution. The primary change was a modification of the dues structure which will improve solvency and independence of the Union for years to come.

One of the speakers at the convention was James Roosevelt, Jr. The grandson of Franklin Delano Roosevelt spoke about the Four Freedoms his grandfather outlined:

- Freedom from Fear
- Freedom of Speech
- Freedom from Want
- Freedom of Religion

"Today, those four freedoms ring as true and as ambitious as when they were first outlined by my grandfather," said Roosevelt.

I'm proud to live in a country defined by those freedoms. We must never take them for granted and defend them conscientiously.

Two women who energized and enthused the crowd were Corrine Brown, US Representative of Florida's 3rd District, and Arlene Holt-Baker, Executive VP of the AFLCIO. Brown spoke about the importance of the November 2008 election. She reminded us that we were fighting against the "Robin Hood mentality" – taking from the poor to give to the rich – that we'd endured for the last eight years. Both women were passionate about the change possible in November, where one candidate was strongly pro-Union and one candidate represented the status quo – continuing sending jobs overseas, outsourcing, and undermining the middle class.

Senator Hillary Clinton gave a moving speech to us that had the delegates up and on their feet, applauding her. She received an honorary IAM membership and is only the third person in the last 60 years to receive this honor. She, too, spoke about the change made possible by the coming election.

The Canadian Labor Congress President, Ken Georgetti, pointed out the gains labor made in Canada, even with a hostile government, and urged delegates to build global trade union solidarity. "Only when we organize and build our collective strength can we improve workers lives and protect our gains," he stated.

Our own Lodge 66 received two awards, and one award to Doug Curler for all his dedicated work on this newsletter and website, and one specifically for the article I wrote on the Union presence at Lakeside Manufacturing.

November brought Veteran's day, which reminded me of standing on a pier with my mother and brother and sisters, watching my father getting aboard his ship and preparing to go out to sea on a 6 month to 1 year WEST PAC. Even as a first grader, I remember the conflicting feelings of knowing I would miss my father and being proud of him and for what he was doing for us and our country.

Even more inspiring was the election night results in November. Our great country pulled together a diverse cross section of people, who set aside their cultural, racial, and religious differences and came together to speak overwhelmingly for change. In the last 143 years, we have gone from a nation whose economy included slave labor and the buying and selling of human beings to becoming a nation who sees past race to the content of a person's character. People like Corinne Brown and Wisconsin's own Gwen Moore have served their districts well in the Congress, and now with the election of Barack Obama, our government is now truly a government of, for and by all the people. And isn't that a true definition of the term "Union"?

I'm proud to have been a part of that. And I'm proud to be a part of the ongoing work to affirm and continue that solidarity – both in the IAM and in our country. **Together – you, me, and our elected Reps, both in the IAM and in our nation – can empower our communities to advance beyond our differences and keep alive our Four Freedoms and our pride.**

In Solidarity James Cobb





General Motors says the average wage for a UAW worker is \$29.78 per hour.

While Toyota, non-Union, says their pay is about \$30.00 per hour.

Reimbursement of Lost Time

The reimbursement of lost time may not be as quickly as members would like it to be done. There is a procedure that must be followed. **The reimbursement will only be done as stated in the letter from District 10 dated December 20, 2005.**

This must happen or be on file:

1. A W4 be completed by member and on file in the Lodge 66 office. This need be done only once.
2. Properly and be complete using the Lodge 66 Lost Time reimbursement form.
3. All lost time must be approved, signed and dated, by your business agent at District 10.

Payroll is done by ADP and done only twice a month. If you miss one pay date it will be done on the following. Lost Time reimbursement must be in before the Monday of any pay date.

For pay dates of Lodge 66 check out the calendar page of our website.

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dwc

Initiation Fee

Per the Lodge 66 Bylaws, **“The initiation fee will be the applicable monthly dues rate for the respective shop of employment for all members.”** This is the way it has been since 2001. Please correct any bad information you may be giving to new members.

dwc

Honorary Withdrawal Card from the Machinists Union

There is a \$1.00 fee, it is not free, but saves you money in the long run. **Do not leave your present employment without it.**

A members dues must be current and the card can only be given within two months of last employment.

Invite Us!!

Patricia Elizondo, Lodge President and I are will to meeting with any shop committees at your shop meetings or at a shop committee meeting to discuss procedures of United Lodge 66 and within the Grand Lodge Constitution. This can not be done if you do not ask.

We just ask for advance notice and any place or time at your convenience.

Doug Curler, Secretary Treasurer

(continued from page 1, Employee Free Choice Act)

finding it harder and harder to stay in our homes, pay for our health care and save for our retirement. And our economy is suffering as a result.

Unions make people’s lives better. The freedom to form Unions and bargain for a better life is a basic human right and it makes a difference: Union members make 30% more than workers who don’t have Unions. They’re 59% more likely to have health benefits and four times more likely to have pensions. That’s real economic security. Communities with strong Unions have high standards of living for everyone.

But the system is broken. More than 60 million workers who don’t have a Union would join on if they could. But under existing law, corporations essentially have a veto over the process. In our company dominated system, workers can be intimidated, coerced and even fired by their bosses for trying to form a Union. A decision that should be in the hands of the workers is instead in the hands of corporate executives.

Why Union members should support the Employee Free Choice Act. The **Employee Free Choice Act** doesn’t just matter for workers who are trying to form a Union. It matters a lot for workers who already have a Union. When more workers are in Unions, workers have the strength in numbers they need to demand good wages and good benefits across communities and industries. That helps all workers bargain for better contracts and counterbalance corporate power.

The Employee Free Choice Act means long term shared prosperity. The **Employee Free Choice Act** is essential to rebuilding the middle class and ensuring the survival of the American Dream. We can build an economy that works for everyone if workers can exercise the freedom to form Unions.

Employment Law

Tuesdays on January 27 to February 24, 2009 from 5:30PM to 8:30PM.

This class is a course for workers, Union representatives, local officers/ activities and community activists interested in:

- Family medical leave (FMLA) Federal and Wisconsin
- Disability Law and Employment rights
- Wisconsin Worker's Compensation Law
- Occupational Health and Safety

An overview will be provided for each area of law including coverage, eligibility, major benefits and rights of workers, and a brief description of procedures for using the law. In addition we will examine some of the problem areas under each law including recent court rulings.

This class is done by the School for Workers, University of Wisconsin Extension at MATC, West Allis Campus, 1200 S. 71st Street Room 117.

There is a registration fee of \$52.69 but the Lodge will reimburse **all members** who complete this class and submit to the Union Office their completion certificate and proof of payment.

The deadline for this class is January 19, 2009. To enroll call 608-265-2391 or your Union Office does have the registration forms and your shop should have been posted by your shop chair. Payment only needs to be made on the first night of the class and the check should be made out to MATC.

Steward Training

Wednesdays on March 4 to April 1, 2009 from 5:30PM to 8:30PM.

This class will cover the duties, rights and responsibilities of stewards as well as techniques for investigating grievances and presenting them to management.

- What does a Union do?
- The role of the steward
- Rights and responsibilities of the steward
- The grievance procedure and the contract
- Grievance investigation
- Effective writing and presentation
- Union's legal right to info from the employer
- Union's legal duty of fair representation
- Discipline cases - 7 Tests of Just Cause
- Handling issues outside the grievance procedure.

This class is done by the School for Workers, University of Wisconsin Extension at Wisconsin Federation of Nurses & Health Professionals Hall, 9620 W. Greenfield Avenue, West Allis.

There is a registration is to be determined but the Lodge will reimburse **all members** who complete this class and submit to the Union Office their completion certificate and proof of payment.

The deadline for this class is not set yet. To enroll call 608-265-2112 or your Union Office does have the registration forms and your shop should have been posted by your shop chair. Payment only needs to be made on the first night of the class and the check should be made out to MATC.



ANY DUES PAYING MEMBER CAN TAKE THIS CLASS AND WILL BE REIMBURSED.

Seniors Corner

For retired Machinists Union members visit our Machinists Union website at www.goiam.org and then the **Community Services and Retirees Department** for details on insurance help available.

Join the Wisconsin ARA Chapter

6333 W. Bluemound Road,
Milwaukee, WI 53213
414-771-9511
dues are \$10/year

<http://www.wisconsinara.org>

Alliance for Retired Americans

888-16th Street, NW Suite 520
Washington, DC 20006
202-974-8222 or 888-373-6497
Fax 202-974-8256

www.retiredamericans.org

Health Care for All

We must never forget **the USA can AFFORD health care for all it's citizens.** We bail out our financial institutions, our automotive industry and fund the Iraq War at \$10 Billion a month.

Yes we can!

47 million Americans, working Americans, have no health care and **if YOU lose your job it is too late to ask WHY ME?**



Union Pride

Machinist Union T-shirts and caps are available at the United Lodge 66 office.

All shirts have a pocket and over the pocket is “**Lodge 66**”. The T-shirts come in blue or gray.

- \$10.00 for medium
- \$10.00 for large
- \$10.00 for X-large
- \$11.50 for XX-large
- \$11.50 for XXX-large
- \$3.50 for mesh cap
- \$11.00 for Denim/Black/Blue cap
- \$11.00 for Khaki cap
- \$12.00 for **Camouflage** cap
- \$4.25 Acrylic Mug, A Woman’s Place Is In Her Union
- \$.10 IAM Logo Temporary Tattoo’s

There are two types of shirts: (1) with ‘*Fighting Machinist*’ on the back or (2) with a plain back.

Car Pooling from Kenosha

Want to carpool? Then, contact Vice President Bob Paar for more information: 262-914-1777 or bpaarosckenosha@yahoo.com

YOUR Email

Get it done by getting your email to United Lodge 66. You can pick and choose from the events, you be informed, and you can pass on the activities to your friends at work.

Email: lodge66@gmail.com

Some activities in our Labor Community, may be in our newsletter, but events happen too fast. **The only way is to visit the “Lodge 66 News” Page or better to be on the Lodge 66 Activists Email List.**

The choice is yours!
In Solidarity,

Directory for District 10 Office,

1650 S. 38th Street, Milwaukee, 53215; dial **414-643-4334**, then extension for your Business Agent:

Bill Christianson	24
Mike Hornby	13
Russ Krings	19
Don Griffin	20
Ben Elizondo	23
Patrick O’Connor	17
Scott Parr	18
Keith Smith	16

HIRE CENTER

Help In Re-Employment
816 W. National Avenue, 2nd Floor
Milwaukee, WI 414-385-6920
‘Dislocated Worker Program’

Officers, LL66

Machinists Union

President Patricia Elizondo
Vice President Bob Paar
Recording Secretary
Mike Pietrzykowski
Secretary Treasurer. . . Doug Curler
Conductor Sentinel . . .
Bunny Browning
Trustees:
Dave Spengler, Darrell Rasch,
Dave Russell

Communicator James Cobb
Educator Patricia Elizondo
Editor Doug Curler
Notary Public Doug Curler
The views and opinions expressed by various writers in this publication are their own and not necessarily those of the Editor, Executive Board or the LL66 membership. The Editor reserves the right to publish, edit, or exclude publication of any article submitted to “*Badger Lodge News*”. Any member may contribute articles for publication; send to United Lodge 66, 2611 W. Oklahoma Avenue, Milwaukee, WI 53215-4438.

Phone and fax is 414-671-3800 or
lodge66@gmail.com

Video: www.youtube.com/badgerlodge

Website: www.unitedlodge66.org
dwc/iamaill66, afl-cio

Daytime Office Hours are 8AM to 4:30PM

or Business can be done by mail;
or dropped in the mail slot; or the
night of a Lodge or
Education Evening Meeting.

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Education Evening
January 15, 2009 @ 7PM
All invited!!